

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W
-----119145 210939Z /14

R 201611Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4574
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17026

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, UR, WA, MILI, USUN
SUBJECT: SOVIET PAPER ALLUDES TO NAMIBIAN ELECTIONS

REF: MOSCOW 16800

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, SOVIET PRESS HAS NOT REPORTED
THE MOVEMENT TOWARD A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT ALTHOUGH
PRIVATELY OFFICIAL SOVIETS APPEAR SKEPTICAL THAT
GENUINE INDEPENDENCE WILL RESULT BY YEAR'S END. A
BRIEF ITEM IN THE JULY 20 RED STAR SIGNALS, HOWEVER,
THAT DEVELOPMENTS ARE IN THE OFFING AND THAT THE
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SOVIETS ARE DUBIOUS ABOUT THE PLANNED ELECTIONS. THE
TWO-SENTENCE REPORT STATES THAT SAG IS CONVERTING
REGIONS CONTIGUOUS TO NAMIBIA INTO SPRINGBOARDS FOR
MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES,
AND (CITING A SENEGALESE JDURNAL) THAT THE BASES
ALONG THE ANGOLAN BORDER ARE TO SERVE AS A CORDON
SANITAIRE "ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA

WHICH THE WESTERN POWERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOUTH
AFRICAN RACISTS HAVE PLANNED."

2. COMMENT: RED STAR IS OF COURSE LESS AUTHORITATIVE
THAN PRAVDA OR IZVESTIYA ON SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS
TOPICAL INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. THE APPEARANCE
OF THE ITEM AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THE
FUNDAMENTAL SKEPTICISM UNDERLYING THE OFFICIAL
SILENCE WHICH HAS SO FAR GREETED THE POSITIVE
NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENTS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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